

Message Text

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15
ACTION SS-15

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 SY-05 SSO-00 /031 W
----- 082964

R 121522Z SEP 76
FM AMEMBASSY JIDDA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5840
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY DACCA
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
AMEMBASSY KABUL
AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
AMEMBASSY RABAT
AMEMBASSY SANA
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
AMEMBASSY TUNIS
AMCONSUL KARACHI

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE JIDDA 6178

FOR DEPUTY UNDER SECRETARY EAGLEBURGER FROM AMBASSADOR PORTER

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: ASEC
SUBJ: BADGES FOR SY

REF: (A) KARACHI 3918, (B) JIDDA 6028, ETC

1. I NOTE SOME VERY SERIOUS CORRESPONDENCE (NOTALS)
BETWEEN REGIONAL SECURITY OFFICERS IN THE FIELD WHICH HAS
OBVIOUSLY HAD THE ATTENTION OF OUR MOST PROFOUND
THINKERS. IT PERTAINS TO THE WEIGHTY SUBJECT OF WHETHER OR NOT
OUR SECURITY MEN SHOULD HAVE BADGES TO IDENTIFY THEM IN THEIR
ELITE FUNCTIONS. I AM TOLD THAT THIS MATTER MAY COME TO
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TROUBLE THOSE UP ON THE SEVENTH HEAVEN OF THE DEPARTMENT AND

EVOKE RUMBLINGS DEEP IN THE BOWELS OF OUR GREAT INSTITUTION.
THE FOLLOWING ARE REFLECTIONS OF ONE OUTSIDE THE SECURITY
BROTHERHOOD AND ARE NOT INTENDED TO DEROGATE THE EXCELLENT, CLEAR,
PRACTICAL AND COMPELLING THOUGHTS CHARACTERISTIC OF THIS
MISSION WHICH WERE SET FORTH IN REFTEL B.

2. IN FACT, THE PURPOSE OF THIS COMMENT IS TO DEFEND OUR SECURITY BOY
S.

WHY SHOULD THEY BE BURDENED WITH BADGES? IS IT THEIR FATE TO
BE THUS ADORNED, ADORED AND THEN ASSASSINATED BECAUSE THEY HAVE
BEEN MADE IDENTIFIABLE? I HOPE NOT, BECAUSE SOME ARE OLD
FRIENDS. WHOM ARE THEY SUPPOSED TO IMPRESS? IF THEY SORTIE
TO GUARD THE SACRED, UNKNOWN, UNINSPIRING PERSONS OF MOST
WASHINGTON MUCKABOUTS WILL THEY DISPLAY THEIR AWE-INSPIRING
EMBLEMS? SHALL THEIR BADGES BE OF DROSS, SHALL SOME WEAR
SILVER AND STILL OTHERS GOLD? WHATEVER IS DONE, MAY I
RESPECTFULLY PROPOSE THAT THE DEPARTMENT GET THEM BADGES OF
BETTER QUALITY THAN MY MOST RECENT SERVICE PIN, WHOSE CORROSIVE
QUALITIES LEFT HOLES AND UNREMOVABLE STAINS ON THE LAPELS OF MY
SUITS (BEFORE THE CLASP FELL OFF) AND WHOSE MAGNIFICENT RUBY
FELL INTO THEY EYE OF A SAUDI ARABIAN GNAT.

3. ON THE OTHER HAND, PERHAPS YOU REALLY SHOULD PROVIDE BADGES
OF THE JUNKIEST MATERIAL IMAGINABLE BEARING THE NOBLE INSIGNIA
"DOWN WITH DICTATORS AND TERRORISTS*". OTHERWISE, THEY MIGHT
BECOME COLLECTORS' ITEMS AMONG THOSE OF THE FIRST CATEGORY (WITH
WHOM WE ARE ALREADY OVERLY FRIEDLY) AND WITH THE SECOND
(TOWARD WHOM WE ARE MUCH TOO BENIGN). WE WOULDN'T WANT THAT,
WOULD WE?

4. WHENEVER THE DEPARTMENT PONDERES THIS VEXING PROBLEM,
WHY NOT GO ALL OUT? WHY NOT A GRENADIER'S CAP COMPLETE WITH
COCKADE AND CURVED, FEATHERED TAIL TO PROTECT THEM FROM THE
REAR? AH, ALL WE CAN DO IS HOPE FOR THE BEST FOR OUR
PROTECTORS IN KEEPING WITH THIS GOLDEN AGE IN WHICH, ALAS,
THE STATUS SYMBOL FOR TRAVELERS HAS BECOME THE NUMBER OF SY
MEN ASSIGNED TO PROTECT THEM.
PORTER

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